

MISSING PAGE

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Attached Statement

9 March 1955

Parade: F
x Blumenthal

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

Fred Blumenthal, PARADE, spent a few hours with me yesterday, going over their ideas for a story to go with your color picture on a forthcoming PARADE, times for May. What they want is a "by Line" story by you, of 1,000 to 1,500 words, preferably on intelligence or something allied thereto.

Excerpts could be made from the speech you made before the Virginia Chamber of Commerce on April 9, 1954 that would, I think, make good reading under your by line and would meet their needs. The attached statement is what I would recommend.

PARADE would like an appointment within the next few weeks to have their photographer come down from New York and make a color picture in your office.

STANLEY J. GROGAN

SUGGESTED ARTICLE

FOR "PARADE"

Those who are directing our foreign policy these days have a double problem. They need to know the facts bearing on our international relations and then they must decide what to do about them.

Until the Communists introduced the idea of building a kind of Chinese Wall around their domains, it wasn't so difficult to get a reasonable idea as to the facts in a given situation. Generally we can get, through normal and overt means, a fair idea of the power potential of the various countries of the world and their intentions and policies can be deduced within a reasonable margin of error.

Today, however, there is a vast area of the globe -- the entire Soviet and satellite world, including Communist China -- which is, in part, a no-man's-land of knowledge.

The Communist world deliberately plans it so. They want to keep us in ignorance of their plans and of their timing and of their power to carry out their plans. Meanwhile we in the free world continue along, with the full light of publicity on what we are doing and of course our major plans in the international field generally require advance approval of the Congress in one form or another.

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In a free society this is more or less inevitable and I would not suggest that we can or should change it even though it puts us at a disadvantage vis-a-vis a possible antagonist. Sometimes, however, it seems to me that in the field of technical developments we tell the world, and hence the Communists, more than we need to. This seems to go with our national temperament. Our people like to share with others the satisfaction of our accomplishments, sometimes without realizing how quickly this knowledge can be turned against us.

One of the main objectives of the Central Intelligence Agency is to try to get at the facts about the Soviet orbit -- the mass we generally use to cover the Communist dominated area that extends from the Elbe River in the heart of Germany to the Yellow Sea and deep into Indochina in the Far East.

I do not propose to disclose where in this quest for knowledge we are having successes and where we are running up against a wall of uncertainty. To do so would merely help the Soviet to close off existing sources of information. I can say, however, that in this work we have come across some facts that lead me to believe that here in the U.S.A. we have some popular misconceptions about this Soviet orbit.

Even a monolithic state like the Soviet Union has its stresses and strains.

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The Soviet people have not become such complete automatons that the Kremlin can safely act in complete disregard of their human needs.

A second misconception, as I see it, lies in our appraisal of the capabilities of the Soviet people individually and collectively. I believe we have a feeling that the Soviet brain is somehow inferior to our own and that in many fields they cannot do the things that we can do.

In all totalitarian systems the denial of freedom, and of private initiative and the curb on individual resourcefulness have serious consequences. But don't make any mistake about this. Those who succeed in the ruthless power struggle that exists in the Soviet Union are persons to be reckoned with. However cynical and corrupt they may be, when they get to the top in that "dog eat dog" system they are men of outstanding force and ability.

When the Soviet State determines to tackle a particular objective, take for example in the field of industrial production or of scientific development, and lays down the ground rules for the work to be done, Soviet scientists and technicians have proved to be surprisingly efficient in getting results. Of course in some fields they have profited by aid received from foreign scientists,

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particularly German; from espionage; and sometimes from prototypes obtained from abroad.

It is high time we should disabuse ourselves of the notion that the Soviet are only good as chess players, as musicians, or in the ballet, apart of course from their demonstrated courage and tenacity as soldiers when defending their own country. We have now had it clearly demonstrated that they have high ability in the field of atomic energy, electronics, in aircraft engine design and construction. Here and in several other fields they have at times surprised the rest of the world.

In my own work, I find it far safer to assume that in technical tasks the trained Soviet citizen can do what we can do. And when we find certain areas in the field of science and development where we are really ahead of them, we can put that down as a happy plus -- but we do not need to tell the Russians where this is.

The disturbing thing about the Soviet effort is that their scientific and productive achievements are almost exclusively directed toward developing engines of destruction for military purposes. We, on the other hand, devote

the major share of our inventiveness and of our production to improving the

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way of life of the ordinary human being by making better automobiles, refrigerators, television and the like. Here, the Soviet are quite prepared to let us do the pioneering with the idea that they can always copy our products and then, of course, claim the credit for the invention.

As we review Soviet achievement in the field of science and technology and the emphasis they are placing on getting their ablest young people into scientific work, we have no real basis for complacency or for assuming an air of superiority. If we do, we are in for a sad awakening. You may be surprised to hear that available statistics indicate that Soviet advanced educational institutions are now turning out more graduates in scientific fields than we are here in the United States.

If possibly Soviet progress in science and technology has been over discounted, on the other hand, there has been a tendency to minimize their problems in another field where normally one would expect them to be strong, namely, in the field of agriculture.

As we look at the map and see the great reaches of the Soviet orbit and further take into account that they can appropriate, at will, the product of the normally agricultural satellite states such as Poland, Rumania and Hungary,

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we would naturally assume that food in the Soviet orbit should be the least of their worries, except possibly in China which has perennial agricultural problems. Such is not the case. Today, agriculture is an ever all headache in the Communist World.

According to the Communists' own admissions, it appears that the only area in the field of agriculture where a real increase is to be noted is in "red tape."

The Central Committee of the Communist Party admits that bureaucratic practices in the handling of agricultural problems have developed to a point where main attention is "concentrated on compiling various directives, resolutions, letters, and so forth."

Even the Communist newspaper, "Pravda", complained that district farm offices were literally inundated with all kinds of paper. One regional executive complained that hours were needed daily to read the government directives and the rest of the time was taken up with a series of unnecessary conferences.

The Soviet leaders have admitted quite frankly the serious nature of their agricultural problems.

First -- the USSR is not richly endowed with agricultural resources. The land area where both climate and soil are at all favorable for farming is small

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relative to the population, and most of it is in use. Hence, expansion of output requires more intensive cultivation.

Second -- in pursuit of industrialization, Soviet economic policy has starved agriculture of capital and drained it of labor. This drain of labor has been largely male labor. On the Soviet farms today about 80 percent of the work is done by women. The balance of the workers are old men, war cripples, and children. Few boys over 16 are seen on the farms.

Third -- the record of Soviet planning of agricultural production has been consistently unimpressive. Agricultural goals set by the Five Year Plans regularly proved excessive and stop-gap emergency measures generally failed to achieve the results demanded. The official reaction to these failures was to attain output plans by demanding greater shares of output from the farmers. With farm incomes already low, these measures did much to increase the demoralization of the Soviet countryside.

The attempt to eliminate private property in the Soviet's productive wealth has not resulted in socialized property but in property in the hands of the dictatorship. As a result, the leading members of the Communist party control the uses of productive wealth, direct the process of investment to suit themselves,

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decide how large a part of the national income the masses will receive, and are in a position to see to it that their own economic welfare remains at a level satisfactory to them. The gulf between the incomes of the elite in the Soviet Union and the ordinary workers is appalling.

If we feel that we here in the United States have our problems because of farm surpluses, we might well ponder with some satisfaction the consequences of the Soviet agricultural system with a crippling bureaucracy and critical farm shortages. At least we need to have no misconception about the fruits of Communism in agriculture.

I would mention one further misconception about the Soviet world that I believe is shared by many. Here I am glad to report that the evidence indicates that any apprehensions are not well founded.

Many people seem discouraged at the fact that totalitarianism has lasted so long in the Soviet Union. They tell us that in a totalitarian state as new generations come along with no experience of the meaning of freedom, the yearning for it may just die away.

This idea is based on the thought that the love of liberty might come largely from enjoying the fruits of it or from observing the experience of one's

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neighbor who lived in liberty. There seemed to be some reason to doubt whether there was here an inherent attribute of men and women apart from past experience, knowledge or upbringing.

During recent years in my present work I have had a good deal of experience, direct or indirect, with persons who have sought asylum in the West from the conditions of human slavery that exist behind the Iron Curtain. I have had contact with young people who have fled to free countries and who had never known any form of life except Communist totalitarianism. Yet somehow they have had a yearning for something better and had experienced a feeling of basic revolt against what they had been taught and against the manner of life they had been forced to live. The two young Polish fliers who brought their planes to freedom not so long ago are good examples of this. They have taught the Soviet and the satellites that it is not safe to expose any of their peoples to the breath of freedom.

This has created a basic problem for the Soviet in handling their military, their diplomatic and their security service personnel, some of whom must come in touch with the free world to carry out their official duties.

At least here is one misconception about the Communist world of which we

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can all disabuse our minds: If we press forward with a vigorous defense of the liberties for which this country and the free world stand, we have no need to fear that we are in a losing race against the totalitarian way of life.
